

## **We Learn Together: Native American Representation in Media**

This presentation examines the problem of representation of Native Americans in White American media, from literature to film to television.

### **Associated learning concepts: (Cultural Identity, Representation, Gender Identity)**

**Cultural Identity:** The definition of groups or individuals (by themselves or others) in terms of cultural or subcultural categories (including ethnicity, nationality, language, religion, and gender). In stereotyping, this is framed in terms of difference or otherness. (oxfordreference.com) A lot of the identity of Native Americans have been misrepresented as many people don't understand or know the cultural or the way of life of a Native American.

**Representation:** "Whitewashing" has been termed a lot in this scenario. A lot of Native Americans have been portrayed in media by white people. Native Americans have also been disrespected in film as most of the representation has either been incorrect or used as a comedic relief.

**Gender Identity:** an individual's personal sense of having a particular gender. (oxfordlanguages.com) Most Native Americans have a male gender, female gender and a two spirit gender. Two spirits is a term that is really complex but basically means when someone is born with the spirits of both genders. There has been a lot of prejudice against this dating back to when the settlers first arrived in the U.S.

### **Where to Find Information from this presentation:**

1. American Indian Tribes Today. (2017, December 13). Retrieved October 25, 2020, from <https://www.nps.gov/cajo/learn/historyculture/american-indian-tribes-today.htm>
2. B. (2016, June). Indian Lands of Federally Recognized Tribes of the US. Retrieved October 25, 2020, from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Indian\\_Lands\\_of\\_Federally\\_Recognized\\_Tribes\\_of\\_the\\_US,\\_June\\_2016.pdf](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Indian_Lands_of_Federally_Recognized_Tribes_of_the_US,_June_2016.pdf)
3. Monsen, L. (2016, November 22). The Red Road Project: Native Americans tell their stories. Retrieved October 25, 2020, from <https://share.america.gov/21st-century-native-americans-tell-their-stories/>
4. Most Popular Native American Reservation Movies and TV Shows. (n.d.). Retrieved October 25, 2020, from <https://www.imdb.com/search/keyword/?keywords=native-american-reservation>

5. Saenz, M. (2020, March). Federal and State Recognized Tribes. Retrieved October 25, 2020, from <https://www.ncsl.org/research/state-tribal-institute/list-of-federal-and-state-recognized-tribes.aspx>

6. Brayboy, D. (2017, September 07). Two Spirits, One Heart, Five Genders. Retrieved November 05, 2020, from [https://indiancountrytoday.com/archive/two-spirits-one-heart-five-genders-9UH\\_xnbfVEWQHwkjNn0rQQ](https://indiancountrytoday.com/archive/two-spirits-one-heart-five-genders-9UH_xnbfVEWQHwkjNn0rQQ)